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INDONESIA TO BAN BITCOIN AS VALUE OF THE POPULAR CRYPTOCURRENCY SOARS ABOVE US\$10,000

By Coconuts Jakarta ([https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts Jakarta](https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts%20Jakarta)) Nov. 29, 2017

- [f](https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=Indonesia%20to%20ban%20Bitcoin%20as%20value%20of%20the%20popular%20cryptocurrency%20soars%20above%20US$10%2C000) ([https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=Indonesia to ban Bitcoin as value of the popular cryptocurrency soars above US\\$10,000](https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=Indonesia to ban Bitcoin as value of the popular cryptocurrency soars above US$10,000))

It might be necessary for owners of Bitcoin in Indonesia to cash in on their digital asset soon in the face of its impending ban by the government, especially as the value of the cryptocurrency has skyrocketed recently.

BI Governor Agus Martowardojo said that, in their bid to protect the rupiah as the legal tender in the country, the central bank will ban Bitcoin and all forms of cryptocurrency sometime in 2018, which includes prohibiting any party from facilitating their transactions.

“We are also preventing the potential for arbitration, unhealthy business practices, and the control of businesses by parties untouchable by laws in Indonesia that could who could damage the structure of industries here,” Agus said, as quoted by *Pikiran Rakyat* (<http://www.pikiran-rakyat.com/ekonomi/2017/11/29/bi-akan-buat-aturan-pelarangan-Bitcoin-414761>) today.

— ADVERTISEMENT —



thanks for watching!

Agus added that cryptocurrencies could potentially be used for money laundering and even funding terrorism.

[The value of one Bitcoin soared past US\\$10,000 today \(https://qz.com/1149536/Bitcoin-btc-has-hit-10000-for-the-first-time/\)](https://qz.com/1149536/Bitcoin-btc-has-hit-10000-for-the-first-time/), which shows its remarkable growth considering that it was being traded at under US\$1,000 at the start of the year and US\$9,000 just a few days ago.

Experts are divided about the future of Bitcoin — some believe that the value of cryptocurrency still has far to soar while others are predicting that it represents a speculative bubble that could burst at any time due to lack of regulations.

That said, Bitcoin remains popular in Indonesia, where it was estimated in 2015 that there are US\$30,000 to US\$50,000 worth of Bitcoin transactions taking place each day, as reported by [TechInAsia \(https://www.techinasia.com/indonesia-bitcoin-startups-list\)](https://www.techinasia.com/indonesia-bitcoin-startups-list).

What exactly is Bitcoin? In essence, it's a decentralized digital currency system that can be used for online purchases — each transaction being verified by a peer-to-peer system. For a more ELI5 explanation of Bitcoin and why it's a highly speculative form of investment, watch this video by *The Guardian* below:

Bitcoin explained and made simple | Guardian Animations



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LIFESTYLE ([HTTPS://COCONUTS.CO/JAKARTA/LIFESTYLE](https://coconuts.co/jakarta/lifestyle))

SYDNEY TRAVEL GUIDE: ALL THE FOOD, WINE, BEACHES, AND EVENTS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS IN THE HARBOUR CITY

By [Coconuts Jakarta \(https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts Jakarta\)](https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts%20Jakarta) Feb. 26, 2018

- [f \(https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=Sydney Travel Guide: All the food, wine, beaches, and events you shouldn't miss in the harbour city\)](https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=Sydney%20Travel%20Guide%3A%20All%20the%20food%2C%20wine%2C%20beaches%2C%20and%20events%20you%20shouldn%27t%20miss%20in%20the%20harbour%20city)

Photo: Vivid Sydney Facebook

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Raise your hand if you're in the mood to let loose, experience a new culture, hit the beach, and indulge in a memorable meal or two (which may or may not be accompanied by several glasses of amazing wine). If your hand is held high, then you, dear reader, are in desperate need of the soul-rejuvenating bliss that only travel can provide. And there's no better destination to make you finally give in and start planning that trip than beautiful Sydney. The "Harbour City" and capital of New South Wales is full of energy, inspiring ideas, natural wonders, and some of the best damn food and wine in the world.



Photo: View along the Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk.

Read on, and see if our favorite things to do in Sydney don't make you want to book a trip right now. We dare you.

Life's a beach in Sydney

The heart of Sydney is its people; a vibrant mix of cultures that is down-to-earth yet worldly, laid back yet creative. And one thing that all Sydneysiders can take pride in is their gorgeous coastline.

If you've just *gotta* check it off the bucket list (we don't blame you, mate), head to Bondi, the most well-known beach in Australia. Take in the scenic view and snap a few Insta-worthy shots of the Bondi Icebergs Pool. Grab a cuppa at one of the hipster-meets-surfer cafes and take a piece of Bondi culture home from one the designer boutiques on Gould Street, just steps from the beach.



Photo: Bondi Icebergs Pool

Last but not least, the famous 6km Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk. The trail passes by five beaches, sparkling bays, and hidden rock pools. Make a stop at Mark's Park to see traditional Aboriginal rock carvings or find the perfect picnic spot at Tamarama Beach. Your reward for the 2-3 hour walk? How about a wood fired pizza and a stunning sunset view at Coogee Pavilion?



Photo: Tidal pools along the Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk.

If you're in the mood to explore the coast less traveled, never fear. There are so many secluded little bays dotting Sydney's shoreline that there's something for every beach mood. Walk through the bush and cool off at Flat Rock Beach. At Milk Beach, in the Sydney Harbour National Park near the heritage-listed Strickland House, you can take a dip in crystal blue water while gazing out to the Sydney skyline on the horizon.

Whale, whale, whale... what do we have here?

Aussie animals are some of the most unique in the world. They're also the cutest and most deadly, but usually not the same animal. Unless you like cuddling crocodiles. In which case, we accept no responsibility for your trip to Sydney.

For a truly memorable (and safe!) experience, cruise out to the deep blue waters off the coast of Sydney and...wait. Humpback whales breaching (aka jumping) and slapping the water with their tails are a common sight around here. The whales' migration starts in May of each year, making it the perfect time for whale watching.



Photo: Oz Whale Watching Tour

Port Stephens is one of the best places to get up close with these majestic creatures, from May all the way until November. It's also the dolphin capital of Australia so you might just be able to see both at the same time. Cape Solander is also known for whale watching from June to July. Bring some chips to munch on (because these giants love to make people wait for a good show), your binoculars, and you're all set!

Whales are great and all, but you haven't really *experienced* Australia until you've made friends with a kangaroo or two. While they are wild in some areas, we highly recommend heading to the massive Taronga Zoo for a safe encounter. Built in 1916, Taronga is a nature conservancy that over 340 species call home.

Let the city wine and dine you

They say travel feeds the soul. Then traveling to eat and drink to your heart's content must be extra nourishing. When it comes to food and wine, there's no better place to experience it than Sydney. Crisp sauvignon blancs, aromatic pinot noirs, the fresh catch of the day, and savory meats cooked to perfection. We can taste it already!

The food scene in Sydney is an endless source of culinary adventure; trendy restaurants in the city, seafood restaurants on the water, Instagrammable desserts in awesome dessert bars, not to mention hip cafes and stylish restos in each suburb.

While Sydney has excellent restaurants any time of year, there are certain outdoor food events that are worth a special mention. The Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival is on this year from May 1-June 30.

The two-month festival showcases New South Wales' wine and food culture and provides a truly immersive experience in the region. Activities include vineyard tours, a wine school, and hot air ballooning. Fine tune your culinary skills with the region's leading chefs, learn from winemakers, or just relax with a glass of Merlot and delicious food made from local produce.

Another not-to-be-missed event is Paramatta Lanes, a street food festival that lights up the small streets of Sydney from Oct. 10-13, 2018. Enjoy the intriguing journey of 12 different theme laneways. This multi-award winning festival offers delightful bites, hip pop-up bars, art installations, and of course, cutting-edge music.



Photo: Parramatta Lanes / Facebook

Ignite your creativity at Vivid Sydney

One of the best times to visit Sydney is during May and June. That's because Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival celebrating light, music, and ideas, will turn Sydney into a party of creativity.

The multi award-winning event will ensure your entire trip is *vividly* charming. Mesmerizing art installations and glittering lights bring Sydney to life at night. During the day, Sydneysiders (and visitors alike) can get creative with workshops and talks all aimed at sparking new ideas and innovations.



Photo: Vivid Sydney / Facebook

Lose yourself in cutting-edge musical performances taking place at venues all over town. Stroll (or cruise) through the Sydney Harbour and be enthralled by the illuminated sails of the iconic Sydney Opera House. Be part of this world-class festival of light, creativity, and music from May 25-June 16, 2018

Ready for an Aussie adventure in Sydney? What are you waiting for? Garuda Indonesia offers convenient flights to Sydney from both Denpasar and Jakarta for prices that can't be beat. Book now with [Garuda Indonesia \(http://getcraft.go2cloud.org/aff_c?offer_id=6666&aff_id=1297\)](http://getcraft.go2cloud.org/aff_c?offer_id=6666&aff_id=1297) and experience 5-Star service by "The World's Best Cabin Crew".

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WOMEN’S MARCH JAKARTA | JAVA JAZZ | COOL THINGS TO DO IN JAKARTA THIS WEEKEND (MARCH 2-4)

By [Coconuts Jakarta \(https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts Jakarta\)](https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts%20Jakarta), Mar. 1, 2018

- [f \(https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=Women's March Jakarta | Java Jazz | Cool Things To Do in Jakarta This Weekend\)](https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=Women's%20March%20Jakarta%20Java%20Jazz%20Cool%20Things%20To%20Do%20in%20Jakarta%20This%20Weekend)

A demonstrator at the first Women's March in Jakarta on March 4, 2017, holding a sign that reads "Front Perempuan Indonesia" or "Indonesian Women's Front" (satirizing the ultra-conservative Islamic group Front Pembela Islam, which also shares the same initials). Photo: Coconuts Indonesia / Andra Nasrie

Check out an amazing lineup of local and international musical acts at Java Jazz

Get Ready for Jakarta International BNI Java Jazz Festival!



The annual Jakarta International BNI Java Jazz Festival returns this weekend for its 14th edition. More than 300 artists and thousands of spectators are expected to converge on the capital for the event (March 2-4), which holds the title of largest jazz festival in Asia. This year's international headliners include the Goo Goo Dolls, LAUV, Jhené Aiko, and the grammy-nominated Daniel Caesar. Home-grown icons Margie Segers Motown and Dira Sugandi are also returning, and Endah N Rhesa will join them at the top of the bill. For more info [check out our event preview](https://coconuts.co/jakarta/lifestyle/java-jazz-festival-brings-musical-icons-jakarta-2018-edition/) (<https://coconuts.co/jakarta/lifestyle/java-jazz-festival-brings-musical-icons-jakarta-2018-edition/>) and [list of must-see acts](https://coconuts.co/jakarta/lifestyle/check-cant-miss-musicians-coming-years-jakarta-international-bni-java-jazz-festival-march-2-4/) (<https://coconuts.co/jakarta/lifestyle/check-cant-miss-musicians-coming-years-jakarta-international-bni-java-jazz-festival-march-2-4/>).

Take a stand for equality at Women's March Jakarta (Saturday morning)



Women's March Jakarta
last Thursday



Hallo semuanya! Women's March tinggal sebentar lagi nih, siapapun yang mau marching bareng untuk menuntut hak-hakmu, silahkan datang ke Parkiran Sari Pan Pacific jam 7 pagi, tanggal 3 Maret nanti. Jangan lupa bawa postermu juga! 🙌👯 #womensmarchjkt #awanbersama

6 1 7

In the one year since the first historic Women's March Jakarta, there has been both heartening progress and disturbing setbacks in the areas of women's rights and equality in Indonesia. The second march will be held this Saturday morning. Participants will gather in front the Sari Pan Pacific Hotel at 7am, and long march together at 8am to Taman Aspirasi, in front of the Presidential Palace. At 9am, there will be speeches, music, dances, and poetry at Taman Aspirasi, until approximately 11.30am. [For more info \(http://womensmarch.id/jakarta/\).](http://womensmarch.id/jakarta/)

[\(http://womensmarch.id/jakarta/\).](http://womensmarch.id/jakarta/)
[\(http://womensmarch.id/jakarta/\).](http://womensmarch.id/jakarta/)

Find your ultimate kicks at Jakarta Sneaker Day in Senayan City (Until Saturday)

Sneaker collecting has gotten quite big in Jakarta over the past few years, with some sneakerheads ready to drop serious *jutas* on collectible kicks. If you're one of them, or just want to see what all the fuss is about, head to Jakarta Sneaker Day at Senayan City. There'll be 40 booths selling unique shoes and reps from different sneaker communities, as well as an exhibition of rare and historical kicks, live music and more. For more info check out [the event's website \(http://www.jakartasneakerday.com/main.htm\)](http://www.jakartasneakerday.com/main.htm).

[\(http://www.jakartasneakerday.com/main.htm\)](http://www.jakartasneakerday.com/main.htm).

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Explore your creative side with wizarding and wine at this Harry Potter themed painting session

**Jakarta Mystery Guide**

18 hours ago

Bartega Studio is hosting a Harry Potter theme wine and paint session this Saturday. Don't miss out! The Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry is opening its doors in the beginning of March to muggles for the first time. This might be your only chance to visit these magical corridors!

**MAR**
3**Wine & Paint (Wizards & Witchcraft)**Sat 2 PM UTC+07 · Nebula Kuningan · Jakarta, Indonesia
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Bartega Studio regularly hosts painting events that are quite unique in Jakarta. These laid back sessions are meant for people of all artistic skill levels who want to relieve stress and unlock their creative sides while also unwinding with friends. To help with that, participants have the option of enjoying free-flow wine so they can really let their creative juices flow. This Saturday's session is Harry Potter-themed, so be ready to paint castles, owls and broomsticks. For more info check out [Bartega Studio's website \(https://www.bartega.com/\)](https://www.bartega.com/).

Consider the meaning of mobility at this photo installation (opens Saturday)**Erasmus Huis**
on Sunday**(I)MOBILITAS***Photo Installation*
by **Arjan Onderdenwijngaard****3 March - 3 May 2018**
Free entrance**Venue:**
KERTA NIAGA, 1st FLOOR
Jl. Pintu Besar Utara no. 11
Kota Tua Jakarta**Opening hours:**
Monday-Sunday 10.00-21.00**Opening exhibition:**
Saturday 3 Maret 2018, 16.00
Free admission**Guided tours by the artist:**
Saturday 10 and 24 March, 11.00 and 14.00
Saturday 7 and 21 April, 11.00 and 14.00**Discussion:**
Journalism/Photography/Art
Saturday 31 March, 14.00
With Oscar Motuloh
(Photographer and curator GFJA)
and Beewibarta
(Photographer Reuters)
Free admission

Exhibition "(I)Mobilitas"

"One's destination is never a place but a new way of seeing things" ~ Henry Miller, American writer 1891-1980

Mobility has become so self-evident that we usually no longer think about it and it is just unknowingly overlooked, literally and figuratively. The means of transport has become a place to work, sleep, play and pray. One is hardly aware of time and space during the move. ... [See More](#)

4

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In this exhibition, Arjan Onderdenwijngaard investigates ideas surrounding mobility and (im)mobility, such as how our means of transport have become the places where we work, sleep, play and pray (ideas that are especially potent in gridlocked Jakarta). The photo installation opens this Saturday (with a guided tour by the artist) and will run until May 3.

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4 KIDS RIDE MOTORCYCLE WITHOUT HELMETS IN FRONT OF POLICE STATION IN INDONESIA, GET STOPPED BY COP (VIDEO)

By [Coconuts Jakarta \(https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts Jakarta\)](https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts%20Jakarta) Mar. 1, 2018

f (https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=4 kids ride motorcycle without helmets in front of police station in Indonesia, g

A police officer in Pematangsiantar, North Sumatra, stopping 4 kids who were riding a motorcycle. Photo: Facebook

Underage children driving motorcycles is way too common of a sight in Indonesia, with most of the blame often pointed at irresponsible parenting and lax law enforcement.

But police don't always completely turn a blind eye to underage driving. Recently, a video went viral showing a cop stopping four kids riding on a single motorcycle in Pematangsiantar, North Sumatra, after the kids made the mistake of driving in front of a police station.

Based on their school uniforms, three of the little kids still go to elementary school while the largest one goes to middle school. Not only were they underage (and thus could not possibly have motorcycle licenses), none of them were wearing helmets either.

It's not known what happened to the kids after the video, but child drivers often go unpunished as the law is limited in how it can punish juvenile crimes (this is perhaps best illustrated by the case of popstar-turned-politician Ahmad Dhani's son, who illegally drove a car when he was just 13 and killed 7 people in a horrific accident but went completely unpunished, as did his father who gave him the sports car he was driving).

Two years ago, a woman started an [online petition to jail parents who let their underage children drive](https://coconuts.co/jakarta/news/woman-starts-petition-jail-parents-who-let-their-underage-children-drive/) (<https://coconuts.co/jakarta/news/woman-starts-petition-jail-parents-who-let-their-underage-children-drive/>), after a kid on a motorcycle killed a 3-year-old boy in an accident. Though the petition has garnered a great deal of support, no such law has been passed.

-  (https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=4 kids ride motorcycle without helmets in front of police station in Indonesia, g)

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PRESIDENT JOKOWI MAINTAINS SOLID LEAD IN POLL WHILE PRABOWO'S NUMBERS ARE SLIPPING

By [Coconuts Jakarta](https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts%20Jakarta) (<https://coconuts.co/profile/Coconuts Jakarta>) Mar. 1, 2018

- [f](https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=President%20Jokowi%20maintains%20solid%20lead%20in%20poll%20while%20Prabowo's%20numbers%20are%20slipping) (https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=President Jokowi maintains solid lead in poll while Prabowo's numbers are slipping)

Prabowo Subianto addressing a meeting of the Gerindra Party on October 17, 2017. Photo: @Prabowo / Instagram

We're still a long way off from Indonesia's 2019 presidential election, but since incumbent Joko Widodo was (unsurprisingly) officially named the presidential candidate for the ruling PDI-P party last Friday, speculation is once again getting rife regarding both his possible picks for VP

and the chances that anybody could beat him at the polls.

Read: [JK, Puan, and even Prabowo: Potential vice presidents being rumored to run with President Joko Widodo in the 2019 election \(https://coconuts.co/jakarta/news/jk-puan-even-prabowo-potential-vice-presidents-rumored-run-president-joko-widodo-2019-election/\)](https://coconuts.co/jakarta/news/jk-puan-even-prabowo-potential-vice-presidents-rumored-run-president-joko-widodo-2019-election/)

Numerous surveys over the last several months show the president with a commanding lead over any potential challengers, including Prabowo Subianto, the head of the Gerindra party who Jokowi defeated in 2014's hotly contested election and who is widely expected to run again next year. Jokowi has a clear lead over Prabowo at the moment, and Prabowo has a clear lead over any other likely candidates, although the latest poll from the Populi Center political survey group showed a small downturn in both of their numbers.

[According to the results of Populi's latest poll \(https://news.detik.com/berita/3891154/tren-elektabilitas-di-survei-populi-jokowi-stagnan-prabowo-menukik\)](https://news.detik.com/berita/3891154/tren-elektabilitas-di-survei-populi-jokowi-stagnan-prabowo-menukik), Jokowi's electability is at 52.8%, a slight drop from December 2017 when their poll had him at 54.9%, whereas Prabowo's got 15.4% in the new poll, down from 18.9% in their previous survey.

Those numbers still put them far above other national political figures, none of whom were even able to break the 1% mark when respondents were asked to freely name their preferred presidential candidate. That includes such as former Indonesian Military Commander Gatot Nurmantyo who got 0.7% percent; Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, the son of former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who also got 0.7%; jailed former Jakarta Governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, who was picked by 0.4% percent; and former president and PDI-P chairwoman Megawati Sukarnoputri, who got just 0.3%.

The Populi Center report noted that that despite Jokowi's slight downturn in this latest poll, his popularity has remained quite steady since August, whereas Prabowo's numbers have steadily declined over the same period. Here are the results of their last six polls.

Jokowi

January 2015: 45.5%

October 2015: 36.6%

August 2017: 52.8%

October 2017: 49.4%

December 2017: 54.9%

February 2018: 52.8%

Prabowo

January 2015: 19.2%

October 2015: 24.3%

August 2017: 28.0%

October 2017: 21.7%

December 2017: 18, 9%

February 2018: 15.4%

The latest Populi Center survey was conducted from February 7-16, and involved 1,200 respondents from across Indonesia using a multistage random sampling method.

If Prabowo's numbers continue to slip while Jokowi's remain steady, perhaps the seemingly [ludicrous scenario of Prabowo choosing to run as Jokowi's VP \(https://coconuts.co/jakarta/news/jk-puan-even-prabowo-potential-vice-presidents-rumored-run-president-joko-widodo-2019-election/\)](https://coconuts.co/jakarta/news/jk-puan-even-prabowo-potential-vice-presidents-rumored-run-president-joko-widodo-2019-election/) won't seem so implausible.

• [f \(https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=President Jokowi maintains solid lead in poll while Prabowo's numbers are si](https://www.facebook.com/dialog/feed?app_id=145796075591753&display=popup&name=President Jokowi maintains solid lead in poll while Prabowo's numbers are si)

LEAVE A COMMENT. WHAT COULD GO WRONG ?

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